

SAIN T LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Official Organ of the Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Protection,
Enjoyment, Study, and Conservation of Birds

Volume 4

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Number 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"THE APRIL MEETING OF THE BIRD CLUB will be held at the Nurses' Home of the Jewish Hospital, 306 South Kingshighway, at 8:00 P.M. The date is Wednesday, April 17th. Mr. H. M. Kennon, Curator of Birds of the St. Louis Zoo, will talk informally on "Foreign Bird Friends in our Bird House." After his talk, Mr. Kennon will be glad to answer any questions about Zoo birds that club members may ask.

BIRD WALKS IN FOREST PARK leave Jefferson Memorial at 6:00 A.M. and the Art Museum at 7:00 A.M. on each Saturday and Sunday morning in April.

BIRD WALKS IN SHAW'S GARDEN leave Flora and Tower Grove avenues at 6:00 A.M. every Saturday in April.

BIRD WALKS IN CARONDELET PARK leave the hollow at Grand and Holly Hills viaduct at 6:00 A.M. Sunday, April 21st.

BIRD WALKS IN O'FALLOW PARK leave the Broadway entrance to the Bellefontaine Cemetery at 6:00 A.M. every Saturday in April.

The Bird Club is invited to spend the week-end of May 11th and 12th at Steelville, Mo. Details will be announced at the April meeting.

The list of birds appearing on the last two pages of this bulletin will be continued in the following months.

BIRD MIGRATION

Although migration of birds has been observed for more than two thousand years, yet our knowledge of it is still small. Most of what we know has been learned through observation and especially through bird-banding. The latter way has been most useful in determining the winter homes of birds, their routes of migration, and their rate of migration.

Just why do birds migrate? This is a question which many have tried to answer, but no definite answer can be found. Perhaps one could say weather; but the fact that many Bluebirds, Robins, and Martins often arrive in the north too early, are caught in snow storms, and die of starvation, argues against this suggestion. At best it seems to be an instinctive desire in the birds that causes them to travel thousands of miles to their winter and summer homes.

Migration is not only accomplished during the daytime, but also at night. Some of the day migrants are ducks, geese, swallows, and hawks. Among the night migrants we find the warblers, the thrushes, and the sparrows. If we then ask how these birds migrate at night through fog, on cloudy nights, with no visible guides, instinct seems to afford a good answer although not a solution.

Migration may take from a few days to over a month, depending on the distance the
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COLLECTING EGGS

We are approaching the season of the year when the birds will begin to build their nests and lay their eggs. At such times one of the greatest enemies of the birds is the small boy who engages in egg hunting expeditions.

Other factors such as the stray cat, the marauding Blue Jay, the pesky squirrel, or inclement weather prove great enough disadvantages to the parent birds without the addition of the egg hunting boy who throws the delicate balance of nature into disorder and thereby constitutes himself a potent factor in decreasing the bird population.

The egg collecting mania is a misdirected part of the hoarding instinct which invariably manifests itself in some
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The first three weeks of the spring bird walks have passed and although there has been a fair turnout of observers, still many of them were not members of the Bird Club.

This is as it should be, yet there should be many more members present who can make themselves known to other persons in the group and invite them to join the club.

The leader of the walk cannot afford the time to seek out new members and still do his duty as a leader and point out the various birds and instruct those present in the fine art of distinguishing one from the other. For him to do otherwise would make the walk uninteresting to many people and they would lose their newly awakened interest.

There remain but three more weeks in which you can take part in these walks and further increase your knowledge of the activities, songs, and in many cases, the identity of the birds. The weather has been far from satisfactory but those of us who have taken part in these morning walks have been amply repaid for the effort expended.

It is hoped that the remainder of the month will see more sunshiny days and that the return of the sun will find more persons out on these walks. So do your part and be there.

HUMMINGBIRD MUSIC

"Most of us are stone deaf to sounds above 18,000 vibrations per second. The Hummingbird's vocal chords are so small and light that many of the sounds he makes have a frequency above audibility. Observers say that when the bird sings only parts of his song are audible." - News Item contributed by Tom M. Kirksey

Bird Migration (continued from front page)

birds have to travel. From Brazil, from Chile, from Central America, and from Southern United States, yes even from the Antarctic Circle our birds migrate north from their winter homes. Thus some birds cover a distance of 2000-3000 miles in migration. This long distance is split up into smaller distances which the bird can cover in a day or night and this latter numbers varies from 100 miles or less to over 500 miles. The speed of birds during migration is not their fastest, but an average of thirty to forty miles an hour. The average distance thus traveled by most all species is about an advance of some twenty odd miles a day.

The many different routes of migration are determined largely by food supply. For this reason we often find that birds will travel indirect, round-about routes to get to their destination. The most used route is that over the Gulf of Mexico, a distance of five hundred miles. This distance the birds cover in one day or night.

Some birds are non-migratory such as the Cardinal, the quail, and the Carolina Wren. Others migrate only to the southern portion of their breeding range. But most birds leave the whole territory they occupied in summer for some distant place.

Many birds never reach their destination. In fall the hunters see to it that many ducks and geese are stopped in their flight. Unexpected storms take a heavy toll and the dazzling light of the coast lighthouses irresistably draws many to their doom. For many night migrants large buildings ring the death sentence. Many drop from sheer exhaustion

Carl Selle

COLLECTING EGGS (continued from page 22)

some form or other in the small boy. To counteract this tendency the activities of the boy can be directed into such more or less harmless channels as collecting stamps or match boxes or bottle caps. Each youngster should be educated to the fact that the robbing of bird nests is an offense against the law.

A few well chosen words to the small boy caught in the act of robbing a bird's nest, explaining the folly of the act and pointing out its illegality will usually suffice to stop the practise.

The tragedy of all the egg collections of the small boys is that they are but the whim of a moment. The collections are for the most part sorry affairs, incorrectly labeled, and with absolutely no scientific value.

For a time while interest keeps up the collection is well-cared for but when interest lags, the collection is relegated to the attic and finally to the ashpit the next spring when mother cleans house.

The solution to the problem lies in education. The boys can be taught to know the common birds. Once the knowledge has been gained, the interest will not lag. It is found to be true that the more a person knows about the birds the greater is his interest in them. That boy who knows at least forty of our common birds can easily be educated as to their value.

True conservation begins with the children in the grade school under the direction of conservation minded teachers.

All educational agencies should not neglect the evident opportunity to perform a real service to society by engaging in an active campaign.

Roland A. Dede

BIRD ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY
in the St. Louis Area
(compiled by Mr. Sterling P. Jones)

Due to arrive in May

Little Blue Heron (CSV) first week
Florida Gallinule (RSR) first week
Piping Plover (RTV) first week
White-rumped Sandpiper (UTV) last week
Common Tern (RTV) middle
Least Tern (UTV) first week
Caspian Tern (UTV) last week
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (UTV) 5th
Alder Flycatcher (USR) 4th
Olive-sided Flycatcher (UTV) 5th
Gray-cheeked Thrush (TV) first week
Bicknell's Thrush (Cas) 1st
Philadelphia Vireo (UTV) 5th
Magnolia Warbler (CTV) 1st
Cape May Warbler (RTV) 2nd
Blackburnian Warbler (UTV) 4th
Bay-breasted Warbler (UTV) 15th
Kirtland's Warbler (Cas) 8th
Connecticut Warbler (UTV) 14th
Mourning Warbler (UTV) 18th
Wilson's Warbler (TV) 4th

Note:

SR - Summer Resident
SV - Summer Visitant
TV - Transient Visitant
WV - Winter Visitant
WR - Winter Resident

Prefixes:

C - Common
U - Uncommon
R - Rare
Cas - Casual

References:

"Birds of Missouri",
by Widmann, for dates
"Birds of Missouri"
by Bennett, for status
"Birds in Vicinity of
St. Louis", by Ernst

Due to depart in April or
first of May

Common Loon (TV) leaves
first week
Horned Grebe (UTV)
White-fronted Goose (TV)
Lesser Snow Goose (TV)
Blue Goose (TV)
Common Black Duck (UTV)
Gadwall (TV)
Baldpate (CTV)
American Pintail (CTV)
Green-winged Teal (CTV)
Blue-winged Teal (CTV)
Shoveller (CTV)
Redhead (CTV)
Ring-necked Duck (CTV)
Canvasback (CTV)
Lesser Scaup (CTV)
American Golden-eye (UTV)
Bufflehead (RWV)
Ruddy Duck (CTV)
American Merganser (CTV)
Goshawk (UWR)
Amer. Rough-legged Hawk (WR)
American Golden Plover (UTV)
Wilson's Snipe (TV)
Long-billed Curlew (UTV)
Long-billed Dowitcher (UTV)
Hudsonian Godwit (RTV)
Franklin's Gull (TV)
Bonaparte's Gull (TV)
Winter Wren (TV) leaves
first week
Hermit Thrush (TV)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (UWR)
American Pipit (TV)
Northern Shrike (CWR)
Pine Warbler (TV) May 3rd
Rusty Blackbird (TV)
Purple Finch (UWR)
Red Crossbill (UWV)
Baird's Sparrow (RTV)
American Tree Sparrow (CWR)
Fox Sparrow (CTV)

"A lady member of prominence in the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, undismayed by the drizzling rain Sunday morning April 7th, arrived at the Bird Walk rendezvous at Olive and old Bon Homme Roads wearing high boots and rain coat, and carrying field glasses and note book and started out alone on a bird hunt. From a passing car came a female voice offering to give the lady in apparent distress a lift, but when the offer was declined, the field glass and note book revealed, the voice from the auto said, "Oh, I see you are one of those..." and drove on." S.P.J.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

(Address communications relative to this department to Mr. L. M. Weber, 3006 Elliot Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.)

The birds observed in the St. Louis region by members of the Bird Club will be listed monthly as follows. The subsequent report is for the month of March. Please send your observations made during April to Mr. Weber not later than May 3rd.

BIRD OBSERVED	TIME OF MONTH	PLACE	OBSERVERS
1. Common Canada Goose	Suitable localities throughout the month 30th & 31st	Forest Park	Bird Club
2. American Pintail	Suitable localities throughout the month 9th	Creve Coeur	Zahm
3. Blue Winged Teal	21st	Creve Coeur	Zahm
4. Wood Duck	13th	Forest Park	Dede
5. Lesser-Scaup Duck	Suitable localities throughout the month 9th	Creve Coeur	Zahm
6. Turkey Vulture	24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
7. Red-Tailed Hawk	Suitable localities throughout the month 24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
8. Marsh Hawk	Suitable localities throughout the month 9th	Creve Coeur	Zahm
9. Sparrow Hawk	Suitable localities throughout the month 9th 24th	Creve Coeur	Zahm Ranken Area
10. Bob-White	Suitable localities throughout the month		W.G.N.S.S.
11. Killdeer	Suitable localities throughout the month		
12. Wilson's Snipe	24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
13. Herring Gull	Suitable localities throughout the month 9th	Forest Park	Bird Club
14. Ring-billed Gull	9th	Creve Coeur	Zahm
15. Mourning Dove	9th & 23rd	Creve Coeur	Zahm Ranken Area
16. Short-eared Owl	9th	Creve Coeur	Zahm
17. Kingfisher	24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
18. Northern Flicker	Suitable localities throughout the month		
19. Pileated Woodpecker	Suitable localities throughout the month 24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
20. Red-bellied Woodp'r	Suitable localities throughout the month		
21. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
22. Red-headed Woodp'r	Suitable localities throughout the month		
23. E. Hairy Woodpecker	Suitable localities throughout the month		
24. N. Downy Woodpecker	Suitable localities throughout the month		
25. Phoebe	17th	Forest Park	Zahm 24th
		Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
	(Five Phoebe nests were observed on the 24th, no eggs)		
26. Prairie Horned Lark	Suitable localities throughout the month		
27. Purple Martin	24th	Ranken Area	W.G.N.S.S.
28. Blue Jay	Suitable localities throughout the month		
29. Crow	Suitable localities throughout the month		
30. Black-capped Chickadee	Suitable localities throughout the month		

BIRD OBSERVED	TIME OF MONTH	PLACE	OBSERVERS
31. Tufted Titmouse.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
32. White-breasted Nuthatch.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
33. Brown Creeper.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
34. Winter Wren.....	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
35. Bewick's Wren.....	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
36. Carolina Wren.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
37. Mockingbird.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
38. Brown Thrasher.....	27th.....	Forest Park....	Selle
39. Robin.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
40. Bluebird.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
41. Migrant Shrike.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
42. Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
43. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
44. Starling.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
45. Myrtle Warbler.....	20th.....	Webster Groves..	Magner
46. Louisiana Water- Thrush.....	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
	(Reported on same day also at Lebanon, Missouri)		
47. English Sparrow.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
48. European Tree Sparrow.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
49. E. Meadowlark.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
50. E. Redwing Blackbird.	Suitable localities throughout the month		
51. Rusty Blackbird.....	13th.....	Forest Park....	Dede
52. Bronzed Grackle.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
53. Cowbird.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
	23rd.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
54. Cardinal.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
55. Purple Finch.....	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
56. Goldfinch.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
57. Red-eyed Towhee.....	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
58. Junco.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		
59. Eastern Tree Sparrow.	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
60. Chipping Sparrow.....	19th.....	Forest Park....	Zahm
	24th.....	Ranken Area....	W.G.N.S.S.
61. Field Sparrow.....	13th.....	Forest Park....	Dede
62. White-crowned Sparrow.....	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
63. White-throated Sparrow.....	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
64. Fox Sparrow.....	13th.....	Forest Park....	Dede
65. Swamp Sparrow.....	9th.....	Creve Coeur....	Zahm
66. Mississippi Song Sparrow.....	Suitable localities throughout the month		

Birds observed during the month of April will be tabulated as above and included in the May Buletin. In order that the Bulletin may not be delayed overlong send your reports to Mr. Weber not later than May 3rd; and if at all possible, list them according to the new A.O.U. checklist.